

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce.
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Economic Development Assistance Programs—Availability of Funds under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended by the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. No. 108-373, 118 Stat. 1756 (2004)) and the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.
- **Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO).
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers:** 11.300, Grants for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities; 11.302, Economic Development—Support for Planning Organizations; 11.303, Economic Development—Technical Assistance; 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance; 11.313, Economic Development—Trade Adjustment Assistance.
- **Dates:** Proposals are accepted on a continuing basis and applications are invited and processed as received. Generally, two months are required for EDA to reach a final decision after receipt of a complete application invited by EDA that meets all requirements.
- **Application Submission:** Proposals and applications must be submitted to the appropriate EDA regional office as set forth below.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** EDA announces general policies and application procedures for grant-based investments that will promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial, and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions, resulting in increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in areas experiencing substantial and persistent economic distress.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objectives and Description

EDA's mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. In implementing this mission pursuant to its authorizing statute, the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*) (PWEDA), EDA advances economic growth by assisting communities and regions experiencing chronic high unemployment and low per capita income to create an environment that fosters innovation, promotes entrepreneurship, and attracts increased private capital investment. Under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2341-2391) (Trade Act), EDA also provides technical assistance to firms that have been adversely affected by increased import competition.

B. Program Priorities

EDA encourages only those investment proposals that will significantly benefit areas and regions experiencing or threatened with substantial economic distress. Distress may exist in a variety of forms, including, but not limited to the following: high levels of unemployment, low income levels, large concentrations of low-income families, significant declines in per capita income, substantial loss of population because of the lack of employment opportunities, large numbers (or high rates) of business failures, sudden major layoffs or plant closures, trade impacts, military base closures, natural or other major disasters, depletion of natural resources, or reduced tax bases.

EDA evaluates and funds investment proposals according to the investment policy guidelines and funding priorities set forth in section V. of this announcement.

C. Program Authority

The authority for the (1) Public Works and Economic Development Investments Program, (2) Planning Program, (3) Technical Assistance Program, and (4) Economic

Adjustment Assistance Program is PWEDA. The authority for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is Chapter 3 of Title II of the Trade Act. On August 11, 2005, EDA published an interim final rule (70 FR 47002) to reflect the amendments made to PWEDA by the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. No. 108-373, 118 Stat. 1756 (2004)). With limited exceptions, the interim final rule became effective on October 1, 2005. Additional information is available at EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov and in section VIII.C. below.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Funding appropriated under the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 109-108, 119 Stat. 2290 (2005)) is available for the economic development assistance programs authorized by PWEDA and for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program authorized under the Trade Act. Funds in the amount of \$250,741,104 have been appropriated for FY 2006 and shall remain available until expended.

1. Public Works and Economic Development Investments Program

Funds in the amount of \$158,088,957 have been appropriated for this program. The average funding level for a Public Works investment in FY 2005 ranged from \$70,000 to \$4,000,000. However, these averages are informational only and are not intended to restrict the size of future awards.

EDA will provide Public Works investments to support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, redevelop brownfield sites, provide eco-industrial development, and support heritage preservation development investments such as those promoted by the Preserve America initiative.

2. Planning Program: Planning Assistance for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, States, and other Planning Organizations

Funds in the amount of \$27,000,000 have been appropriated for this program. As in FY 2005, EDA expects that the majority of FY 2006 Planning Program funds will be used to provide support to existing Economic Development Districts and Indian Tribe recipients.

Additionally, in accordance with the Senate Report (S. REP. NO. 108-382 (2004)) accompanying the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. No. 108-373, 118 Stat. 1756 (2004)), EDA announces its intent to solicit and evaluate investment proposals and applications for designated but unfunded Economic Development Districts and new Economic Development Districts pursuant to the provisions of this announcement. Potential applicants should contact the appropriate EDA regional office to make these determinations.

3. Technical Assistance Program: Local Technical Assistance; National Technical Assistance; and University Centers

Funds in the amount of \$8,203,068 have been appropriated for the Technical Assistance Program.

Special Information on the National Technical Assistance Program

A separate FFO announcement will be posted at www.grants.gov and will set forth the specific funding priorities, application and selection processes, time frames, and evaluation criteria for certain National Technical Assistance projects to be funded under the FY 2006 appropriation. Additional information may be found at EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov.

Special Information on the University Center Economic Development Program

In FY 2006, pursuant to a separate FFO announcement posted at www.grants.gov, EDA is opening competition for University Center funding in the Atlanta and Seattle regional offices. This separate FFO announcement sets forth the specific funding priorities, application and selection processes, time frames, and evaluation criteria for University Center projects to be funded with FY 2006 appropriated program funds. Additional information is also available at EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov.

Multi-year funding is available through this program. EDA will approve a three-year project period for each University Center selected for funding under the competition initiated in FY 2006. An EDA regional office may fully fund a selected proposal for the full three-year period, or, alternatively, may provide funding year-to-year. If the year-to-year funding option is utilized, the University Center will not have to compete for the second and third year of funding. Funding beyond the initial year would be dependent upon the availability of funds and satisfactory performance, as determined by EDA and expressed in written notice.

4. Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning and infrastructure assistance in communities experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. This program is designed to respond flexibly to pressing economic recovery issues and is well suited to help address challenges faced by U.S. communities and regions. EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance Program is available to all eligible recipients under PWEDA, including institutions of higher learning, non-profit organizations and consortia and State and local governments.

Funds in the amount of \$44,153,838 have been appropriated for this program. EDA continues its commitment to funding economic adjustment projects located in regions impacted by coal industry downsizing, timber industry issues and Alaska fishing-dependent communities.

EDA also will continue its ongoing consideration of investment proposals from communities experiencing adverse economic changes due to base realignment and closures (BRAC) and Federally-declared disasters when awarding assistance from FY 2006 Economic Adjustment Assistance Program funds. EDA will help American workers, businesses, and communities affected by military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions in force, U.S. Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions, Federally-declared disasters, or economic deterioration due to other disasters, by providing assistance for planning, coordinating the use of federal resources available to support economic development recovery, and developing regionally focused economic recovery and growth strategies.

5. Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

Funds in the amount of \$12,814,214 have been appropriated for this program. EDA expects these funds will be used to support the existing network of eleven regional, non-profit organizations known as Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers (TAACs) and to provide technical assistance to firms certified as eligible under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program for Firms. Continuation grants will not be competed. No new TAAC grants will be awarded this year.

B. Type of Funding Instrument

EDA provides funding for eligible investment activities through direct grants and cooperative agreements. In funding cooperative agreements, a common example of substantial involvement is collaboration between EDA program staff and the recipient of a conference planning award to select a conference site, develop the agenda, and choose presenters, or to review a research project's methodology at critical stages and the draft written report.

C. Project and Award Periods

Project and award periods are dependent on the nature of the project and EDA program under which the project is awarded.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Pursuant to PWEDA, eligible applicants for and eligible recipients of EDA investment assistance include a District Organization; an Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; a State, a city or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or a public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. *See* section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3122) and 13 CFR § 300.3. Projects eligible for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investment assistance include those projects located in regions meeting "special need" criteria, as set forth in section VIII.B. of this announcement.

For-profit, private sector entities do not qualify for EDA investment assistance, with one minor exception: EDA may award a grant through its Technical Assistance Program, which includes Local Technical Assistance and National Technical Assistance, to for-profit organizations for the specific purposes set forth in 13 CFR § 306.1. EDA is not authorized to provide grants directly to individuals or to for-profit entities seeking to start or expand a private business. Such requests may be referred to State or local agencies, or to non-profit economic development organizations serving the region in which the project will be located.

Any community affected by the 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995 or 2005 base realignment and closure (BRAC) actions, which qualifies under EDA's Public Works Program or Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, may apply for assistance under one or both of these programs. EDA anticipates that proponents with construction proposals will seek funding from the Public Works Program, and strategic planning, credit enhancement or other innovative financing proposals will compete under the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program.

B. Economic Distress Criteria

Potential applicants are responsible for demonstrating to EDA, by providing statistics and other appropriate information, the nature and level of economic distress in the region in which the proposed project is located. For Public Works and Economic Adjustment investment assistance, the project must be located in a region that, on the date EDA receives an application for investment assistance, is subject to one (or more) of the following economic distress criteria: (1) an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent twenty-four (24) month period for which data is available, at least one (1) percent greater than the national average unemployment rate; (2) per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data is available, eighty (80) percent or less of the national average per capita income; or (3) a "special need", as determined by EDA and discussed in section VIII.B. of this announcement. *See* section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161) and 13 CFR § 301.3.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching Share Requirement

Generally, the amount of the EDA grant may not exceed fifty (50) percent of the total cost of the project. Projects may receive an additional amount that shall not exceed thirty (30) percent, based on the relative needs of the region in which the project will be located, as determined by EDA. *See* section 204(a) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3144) and 13 CFR § 301.4(b)(1). For projects of a national scope under 13 CFR part 306 (Training, Research and Technical Assistance), and for all other projects under 13 CFR part 306, after the application of the first two (2) sentences of this paragraph, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development (Assistant Secretary) has the discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to one-hundred (100) percent where the project (i) merits and is not otherwise feasible without an increase to the EDA investment rate; or (ii) will be of no or only incidental benefit to the recipient. *See* section 204(c)(3) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3144) and 13 CFR § 301.4(b)(4).

In the case of EDA investment assistance to a(n) (i) Indian Tribe, (ii) State (or political subdivision of a State) that the Assistant Secretary determines has exhausted its effective taxing and borrowing capacity, or (iii) non-profit organization that the Assistant Secretary determines

has exhausted its effective borrowing capacity, the Assistant Secretary has the discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to one hundred (100) percent of the total project cost. *See* sections 204(c)(1) and (2) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3144) and 13 CFR § 301.4(b)(5). Potential applicants should contact the appropriate EDA regional office to make these determinations.

While cash contributions are encouraged, in-kind contributions, consisting of contributions of space, equipment, assumptions of debt, and services, may provide the non-Federal share requirement of the total project cost. *See* section 204(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3144). EDA will fairly evaluate all in-kind contributions, which must be eligible project costs and meet applicable Federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements. Funds from other Federal financial assistance awards are considered matching share funds only if authorized by statute that allows such use, which may be determined by EDA's reasonable interpretation of the statute. *See* 13 CFR § 300.3. The applicant must show that the matching share is committed to the project, available as needed and not conditioned or encumbered in any way that precludes its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance. *See* 13 CFR § 301.5.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Proposal Packages

The Form ED-900P (OMB Control No. 0610-0094) may be downloaded from EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov or may be obtained from the appropriate EDA regional office or Economic Development Representative. For agency addresses and telephone numbers, see section VIII.D. below. EDA is currently unable to accept electronic proposal submissions.

B. Content and Form of Application Process

To apply for an award under this announcement, an eligible recipient must submit a completed "Pre-application for Federal Assistance," Form ED-900P (OMB Control No. 0610-0094), to the appropriate Economic Development Representative for the area or EDA regional office. Once a pre-application proposal has been accepted by an EDA regional office, it may be carried over for consideration of award in subsequent fiscal years.

1. Proposal Format

Proposals must be submitted on the Form ED-900P (OMB Control No. 0610-0094). This form contains questions and requires a narrative statement that should not exceed four (4) pages. The narrative statement must address the following topics in the order listed below:

- a. Project area.
- b. Project description.
- c. The regional nature and/or impact of the project.
- d. The means by which and the extent to which the project supports innovation.

- e. The means by which and the extent to which the project encourages entrepreneurship.
- f. Proponent's capability.
- g. Regional problem(s) or obstacle(s) addressed by the project.
- h. Project beneficiaries.
- i. Funding.
- j. Identity of sources of local commitment and non-EDA funding.
- k. Title/ownership/operation and maintenance (construction projects).
- l. Environmental issues.

Proposals for Public Works and Economic Adjustment investment assistance must also include Exhibit A to Form ED-900P that requests information from the proponent about the region in which the proposed project will be located (under 13 CFR parts 305 and 307), in addition to other necessary documentation and the narrative statement.

Proponents requesting EDA to fund more than fifty (50) percent of eligible project costs may be required to include Exhibit B to Form ED-900P that requests additional information from the proponent to reach an investment rate determination, in addition to other necessary documentation and the narrative statement.

Unless otherwise provided herein, eligibility, program objectives, application procedures, selection process, evaluation criteria, and other requirements for all programs are set forth in EDA's interim final rule, and applicants must address those requirements. Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements, published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). This announcement may be accessed by entering the Federal Register volume and page number listed in the previous sentence at the following Internet website: <http://gpoaccess.gov/fr/retrieve.html>.

For a Public Works (13 CFR part 305) or an Economic Adjustment investment (13 CFR part 307) (CFDA Nos. 11.300 and 11.307, respectively), EDA reviews project eligibility at the time an application for investment assistance is received in the regional office. For economic distress levels based upon the unemployment rate or per capita income requirements, EDA will base its determination upon the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) published by the U.S. Census Bureau for either: the region where the Project is located, the geographical area where substantial direct project-related benefits will occur, or the geographical area of poverty or high unemployment, as applicable. If a recent ACS is not available to determine project eligibility, EDA will base its decision on the most recent federal data from other sources (e.g., data available from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Labor Statistics, Indian Affairs). If no federal data is available, an applicant must submit to EDA the most recent data available through the government of the State in which the region is located (i.e., conducted by or at the direction of the State government). *See* section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161) and 13 CFR § 301.3. Other data may be submitted, as appropriate, to substantiate eligibility based on "special need" (*see* section VIII.B. below). The project must be eligible on the date EDA receives the application. In the case of an application received by EDA more than six (6) months prior to the time of award, EDA will re-evaluate the project to determine continued

eligibility for EDA investment assistance before making an award. EDA will reject any documentation of eligibility that it determines is inaccurate or incomplete, which may cause the application to be rejected.

2. Submission Dates and Times

Unless otherwise noted in this announcement, EDA's regional offices accept proposals on an ongoing basis.

3. Intergovernmental Review

EDA applications for funding are subject to the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." To find out more about a State's process under EO 12372, applicants may contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Names and addresses of some States' SPOCs are listed on the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) home page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

C. Funding Restrictions

Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient may incur in the course of carrying out the project. EDA allowable costs are determined by reference to the following Office of Management and Budget Circulars: Circular No. A-122 titled "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations" (2 CFR part 230); Circular No. A-21 titled "Cost Principles for Education Institutions" (2 CFR part 220); and Circular No. A-87 titled "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments" (2 CFR part 225). Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, supplies and other expenses that are reasonable and necessary for the completion of the scope of work.

D. Other Submission Requirements

A proponent must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of a pre-application proposal under this competition to the appropriate EDA regional office's address provided in section VIII.D. EDA will not accept facsimile transmissions of pre-application proposals.

V. Proposal Review Information

A. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

Each pre-application proposal is circulated by a project officer within the appropriate regional office staff for review and comments. When the necessary input and information are obtained, the pre-application proposal is considered by the regional office's Investment Review Committee (IRC), which is comprised of regional office staff. The IRC discusses the proposal (and all pertinent documentation) and evaluates it on two levels of analysis. The IRC (a) determines if the proposal meets the program-specific award and application requirements provided in 13 CFR § 305.2 for Public Works investments, 13 CFR § 303.3 for Planning investments, 13 CFR § 306.2 for Local and National Technical Assistance, and 13 CFR §§ 307.2

and 307.4 for Economic Adjustment Assistance, and (b) rates each proposal using the general evaluation criteria set forth in 13 CFR § 301.8. These general evaluation criteria are provided below under subsection B. University Center and National Technical Assistance funding proposals will be evaluated pursuant to separate Federal Register notices published for FY 2006.

After completing its evaluation, the IRC recommends to the Regional Director whether or not an application should be invited, documenting its recommendation in the meeting minutes or in the Investment Proposal Summary and Evaluation Form. For quality control assurance, EDA Headquarters reviews the IRC's analysis of the project's fulfillment of the investment policy guidelines set forth below and in 13 CFR § 301.8. After receiving quality control clearance, the Selecting Official (depending on the program, either the Regional Director or the Assistant Secretary) considers the evaluations provided by the IRC and the degree to which one or more of the Funding Priorities provided below are included (or packaged together), in making his/her decision as to which proponents should be invited to submit a formal application for investment assistance. The Selecting Official then formally invites the successful proponents to submit formal applications. If the Selecting Official declines to invite a full application, he/she provides written notice to the proponent. In the case of a continuation grant, no pre-application proposal is required. Proposals received after the date of this notice will be processed in accordance with the requirements set forth herein until the next annual FFO is posted on www.grants.gov and the related notice and request for proposals is published in the Federal Register.

If a proponent is selected to submit a formal application, the appropriate regional office will provide application materials and guidance in completing them. The proponent will generally have thirty (30) days to submit the completed application materials to the regional office. EDA staff will work with the proponent to resolve application deficiencies. If a completed formal application is accepted, the applicant and Economic Development Representative are notified and it is forwarded for final review and processing in accordance with EDA and Department of Commerce procedures.

B. Evaluation Criteria

EDA will select investment proposals competitively based on the investment policy guidelines and funding priority considerations identified in this announcement. All EDA investment proposals will be competitively evaluated primarily on their ability to satisfy one (1) or more of the following investment policy guidelines, each of equivalent weight and which also are set forth in 13 CFR § 301.8:

1. ***Be market-based and results driven.*** An EDA investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private sector investment resulting from the EDA investment.
2. ***Have strong organizational leadership.*** An EDA investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.

3. ***Advance productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.*** An EDA investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship, enhance regional industry clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.
4. ***Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy.*** An EDA investment will be part of an overarching, long-term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.
5. ***Demonstrate a high degree of local commitment by exhibiting:***
 - High levels of local government or non-profit matching share funds and private sector leverage;
 - Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials; and
 - Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners and local, State and Federal governments.

In addition to using the investment policy guidelines set forth above, EDA also will evaluate all Planning investment proposals based on the (i) quality of the proposed scope of work for the development, implementation, revision or replacement of a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) and (ii) qualifications of the proponent to implement the goals and objectives resulting from the CEDS. *See* 13 CFR § 303.3(a)(1) and (2). To ensure that the proposal fully meets these requirements, proponents should pay particular attention to 13 CFR § 303.7, which sets forth specific technical requirements for CEDS.

C. Funding Priorities

Successful applications for EDA's investment programs will be regionally-driven initiatives in areas of the Nation that are underperforming and eligible for EDA programs that meet one or more of the following core criteria (investment proposals that meet more than one core criterion will be given more favorable consideration):

1. Investments in support of long-term, coordinated and collaborative regional economic development approaches:

- Establish comprehensive regional economic development strategies that identify promising opportunities for long-term economic growth.
- Exhibit demonstrable, committed multi-jurisdictional support from leaders across all sectors:
 - i. Public (e.g., mayors, city councils, county executives, senior state leadership);
 - ii. Institutional (e.g., institutions of higher learning);
 - iii. Non-profit (e.g., chambers of commerce, development organizations); and
 - iv. Private (e.g., leading regional businesses, significant regional industry associations).

- Generate quantifiable positive economic outcomes.

2. *Investments that support innovation and competitiveness:*

- Develop and enhance the functioning and competitiveness of leading and emerging industry clusters in an economic region.
- Advance technology transfer from research institutions to the commercial marketplace.
- Bolster critical infrastructure (e.g., transportation, communications, specialized training) to prepare economic regions to compete in the world-wide marketplace.

3. *Investments that encourage entrepreneurship:*

- Cultivate a favorable entrepreneurial environment consistent with regional strategies.
- Enable economic regions to identify innovative opportunities among growth-oriented small and medium-size enterprises.
- Promote community and faith-based entrepreneurship programs aimed at improving economic performance in an economic region.

Additional consideration will be given to investment proposals which also accomplish the following:

- Respond to sudden and severe economic dislocations (e.g., major layoffs and/or plant closures, disasters).
- Enable BRAC-impacted communities to transition from a military to civilian economy.
- Advance the goals of linking historic preservation and economic development as outlined by Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America.”

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

As detailed in section V. of this announcement, EDA will invite successful proponents to submit a complete application. This invitation is not, however, a guarantee that funding will be provided. Unsuccessful proponents will be notified by postal mail that their proposals were not recommended for funding. Unsuccessful proposals will be retained in the EDA regional office for one year, after which they will be destroyed.

The EDA Grants Officer will issue the grant award (Form CD-450), which is the authorizing financial assistance award document. By signing the Form CD-450, the recipient agrees to comply with all award provisions. It is provided by postal mail to the appropriate business office of the recipient’s organization and must be signed and returned without modification by the recipient within thirty (30) days of receipt.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements, published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389). This notice may be accessed by entering the Federal Register volume and page number provided in the previous sentence at the following Internet website:
<http://gpoaccess.gov/fr/retrieve.html>.

C. Reporting

All recipients are required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. All financial reports must be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies) to the EDA Program Officer. Reports are due on a semi-annual schedule and must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days following the end of the six-month period(s) established in the award. Final reports are due ninety (90) days after the award completion. *See* 13 CFR § 302.16.

D. Performance Awards

In connection with an award to a recipient for a Public Works or an Economic Adjustment Assistance grant, the Assistant Secretary has the discretion to award a performance award to the recipient in an amount not to exceed ten (10) percent of the investment award, subject to the availability of funds. To receive a performance award, a recipient must demonstrate successful project performance in one or more of the areas set forth in 13 CFR § 308.2(b), weighted at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary. *See* section 215 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154a) and 13 CFR § 308.2.

In connection with an award to a recipient (i) made on or after the date of enactment of section 216 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154b) and (ii) located in an EDA-funded Economic Development District, the Assistant Secretary has the discretion to award a planning performance award to the recipient in an amount not to exceed five (5) percent of the investment award, subject to the availability of funds. *See* section 216 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154b) and 13 CFR § 308.3.

EDA is currently working to establish allocation criteria for performance awards under section 215 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154a) and for planning performance awards under section 216 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154b).

VII. Agency Contacts

EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov contains additional information on EDA and its programs. You may also contact the appropriate EDA regional office. Addresses for each of EDA's six (6) regional offices are provided in section VIII.D. of this announcement. Addresses for the Economic Development Representatives (EDRs) also are listed in section VIII.D. For community and regional economic development investments, contact the EDA regional office or the EDR for your area, as provided in section VIII.D. For (i) Research and Evaluation and (ii)

National Technical Assistance, please contact Frank J. Monteferrante at (202) 482-4208. For Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms, please contact Jedd B. Vertman at (202) 482-4689.

VIII. Other Information and Requirements

A. Other Requirements

EDA's interim final rule is available on its Internet website at www.eda.gov. Certain Department of Commerce and other requirements are noted below.

The implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require EDA to provide public notice of the availability of project-specific environmental documents, such as environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, findings of no significant impact, records of decision etc., to the affected public as specified in 40 CFR 1506.6(b). Depending on the project location, environmental information concerning specific projects can be obtained from the Regional Environmental Officer (REO) in the appropriate EDA regional office listed in section VIII.D.

B. Special Need Criteria

The following criteria are published in accordance with 13 CFR § 301.3(a)(1)(iii) and define what may constitute a "special need" (as defined in 13 CFR § 300.3) sufficient to make a project eligible for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investment assistance, as described in section II. of this announcement. Proposals for only Public Works or Economic Adjustment investment assistance may be found eligible under "special need," and EDA will determine the investment rates for such projects. A project is eligible pursuant to a "special need" if the project is located in a region that meets one of the criteria described below:

1. Closure or restructuring of industrial firms essential to the regional economy. A region has experienced either: (1) an actual closure or restructuring of a firm(s) within the past twelve (12) months prior to application, resulting in sudden job losses and meeting the following dislocation criteria; or (2) a threat of closure that results from a public announcement of an impending closure or restructuring of a firm(s) expected to occur within two (2) years of application and result in sudden job losses meeting the following dislocation criteria:
 - a. For regions with population over 100,000, the actual or threatened dislocation is 500 jobs, or one (1) percent of the civilian labor force (CLF), whichever is less.
 - b. For regions with population up to 100,000, the actual or threatened dislocation is 200 jobs, or one (1) percent of the CLF, whichever is less.
2. Substantial out-migration or population loss. Applicants seeking eligibility under this criterion will be asked to present appropriate and compelling economic or demographic data to demonstrate the special need.
3. Underemployment, meaning employment of workers at less than full-time or at less skilled tasks than their training or abilities permit. Applicants seeking eligibility under this criterion will be asked to present appropriate and compelling economic and demographic data to demonstrate the special need.

4. Military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions-in-force, or Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions.
 - a. A military base closure refers to a military base that was closed or is scheduled for closure or realignment pursuant to the base closure and realignment process or other Department of Defense (DOD) process. Unless further extended by the Assistant Secretary, the region is eligible from the date of DOD's recommendation for closure until five (5) years after the actual date of closing of the installation.
 - b. A defense contractor reduction-in-force refers to a defense contractor(s) experiencing defense contract cancellations or reductions resulting from official DOD announcements and having aggregate value of at least \$10 million per year. Actual dislocations must have occurred within one year of application to EDA and threatened dislocations must be anticipated to occur within two (2) years of application to EDA. Defense contracts that expire in the normal course of business will not be considered in meeting this criterion.
 - c. A Department of Energy defense-related funding reduction refers to a Department of Energy facility that has experienced or will experience a reduction of employment resulting from its defense mission change. The area is eligible from the date of the Department of Energy announcement of reductions until five (5) years after the actual date of reduced operations at the installation.
5. Natural or other major disasters or emergencies, including terrorist attacks. Unless further extended by the Assistant Secretary, a region that has received one of the following disaster declarations is eligible to apply for EDA assistance for a period of 18 months after the date of declaration.
 - a. A Presidentially-Declared Disaster declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*), or
 - b. A Federally-Declared Disaster pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)), or
 - c. A Federally-Declared Disaster pursuant to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1961), or
 - d. A Federally-Declared Disaster pursuant to the Small Business Act, as amended (Pub. L. No. 85-536, 72 Stat. 384 (1958)).
6. Extraordinary depletion of natural resources. EDA presently recognizes the following conditions of extraordinary natural resource depletion:
 - a. Fisheries.
 - b. Coal.
 - c. Timber.

Modifications to the above listing of conditions of extraordinary natural resource depletion, as they may occur, will be announced in subsequent public notices.
7. Communities undergoing transition of their economic base as a result of changing trade patterns. An area certified as eligible by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Program or the Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP).
8. Other special need. The area is experiencing other special and/or extraordinary economic adjustment needs, as determined by the Assistant Secretary.

The applicant will be asked to present appropriate economic or demographic statistics to demonstrate a special need.

C. EDA Regulations

On December 15, 2005, EDA published a second interim final rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 74193) to change the provisions of the August 11, 2005 interim final rule consistent with the direction provided in the Conference Report (H.R. REP. NO. 109-272 (2006)) accompanying the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 109-108, 119 Stat. 2290 (2005)). The regulations contained in the August 11, 2005 interim final rule, together with subsequent changes made thereto by the December 15, 2005 interim final rule, will govern all awards under this announcement. In publishing a final rule during 2006, EDA will consider all comments received during the public comment period (held from August 11, 2005 through November 14, 2005) on all aspects of the August 11, 2005 interim final rule.

D. EDA Regional Offices and Economic Development Representatives

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